



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
DEPARTMENT OF AUDITOR-CONTROLLER**

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TO: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley   
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – HOLLYGROVE  
GROUP HOME FACILITY**

We have completed a review of Hollygrove Group Home Facility. Hollygrove contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation). Hollygrove is a 68 bed facility, located in the Third Supervisorial District, which provides care for boys and girls ages 6-13 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, Hollygrove was providing services for 44 Los Angeles County DCFS children and one San Bernardino County child.

**Scope of Review**

The purpose of the review was to verify that Hollygrove was providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. Additionally, the review covered basic child safety and licensing issues and included an evaluation of Hollygrove's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with five children placed with Hollygrove at the time of the review. Interviews with the residents were designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by Hollygrove and to ensure its adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

**Summary of Findings**

Generally, Hollygrove is providing the services outlined in its Program Statement. However, Hollygrove needs to improve its Needs and Services Plans; include the goals of the Needs and Services Plans in the Quarterly Reports; and assist residents in creating and updating their life books.

Attached is a detailed report of the review findings.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

**Review of Report**

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. The Agency's management has agreed to provide DCFS with a written corrective action plan within 15 business days from the receipt of this report. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me, or have your staff contact DeWitt Roberts at (626) 293-1101.

JTM:DR:CC

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer  
David Sanders, Ph.D., Director, DCFS  
Richard Shumsky, Chief Probation Officer  
Judith Nelson, Executive Director, Holly Grove Home  
Violet Varona-Lukens, Executive Officer  
Public Information Office  
Audit Committee

**HOLLYGROVE HOME  
Hollygrove Main Site  
815 North El Centro Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90038  
(323) 463-2119  
License No.: 191800322  
Rate Classification Level: 12**

**I. FACILITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

*(Facility Based - No Sample)*

**Method of assessment – Observation and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

**Comments:**

Hollygrove is located in a residential neighborhood in Hollywood. The exterior of the facility was well maintained and visually enhanced the community. No safety hazards were observed.

The cottages, dining hall, media center, pool, and outdoor recreation equipment, were well maintained and provided very comfortable living conditions for the children.

Each cottage's common area was comfortably furnished and spacious. The bedrooms were clean, nicely decorated, well furnished, and personalized by the residents.

There was a variety of indoor and outdoor activities, including a basketball court, large, swimming pool, playground equipment, a large grassy area and cemented areas for playing, board games, books, videos, and computers.

Hollygrove had an on-grounds media center/library with a variety of books, computers, and resource materials available for the residents' use.

Each cottage had a kitchenette utilized for storing and preparing snacks. Each cottage maintained a sufficient supply of snacks that were properly stored. Resident meals were provided by the main kitchen maintained in accordance with the Department of Health licensing standards. There was an adequate quantity of food properly stored.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **II. PROGRAM SERVICES**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

#### **Comments:**

The residents met Hollygrove's population criteria as outlined in their program statement and had initial diagnostic assessments.

The Needs and Services Plans (NSPs) were current, but did not have goals that were specific to each resident or measurable. The residents and their authorized representatives participated in developing and updating the NSPs.

The Quarterly Reports were current and discussed various areas, in depth. However, they did not focus on actual goals that should have been noted in the NSPs.

The residents received individual and group therapy.

#### **Recommendations**

##### **1. Hollygrove management:**

- a. Ensure Needs and Services Plans contain goals that are specific to each resident and are measurable.**
- b. Include the goals of the Needs and Services Plans in each resident's Quarterly Report.**

## **III. EDUCATIONAL AND EMANCIPATION SERVICES**

### **Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

#### **Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

#### **Comments:**

Two of the residents attended Hollygrove's on-grounds private school and three of the residents attend public school. Each resident required and had current Individualized Education Plans and their files contained report cards and/or progress reports.

The residents reported that staff provided educational support, educational resources, and adequate daily cognitive stimulation. The residents reported that they were taught age-appropriate activities for daily living that included cleaning up after themselves,

straightening their rooms, making their beds, and maintaining good personal hygiene.

Those residents who were interested could request “paid chores” such as washing the van or weeding the flowerbed. None of the residents worked and were able to manage their own money accumulated from chores and weekly allowances.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **IV. RECREATION AND ACTIVITIES**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

### **Comments:**

The residents expressed satisfaction with the activities provided by the group home. They stated that they enjoyed the activities, participated in the planning, and staff provided supervision.

The residents were able to participate in self-selected activities and had free time during the day. Transportation was provided to and from activities.

### **Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

## **V. PSYCHOTROPIC/OTHER MEDICATION**

**Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents**

**There were 55 residents placed in Hollygrove at the time of the review. A review of case files was conducted for the 44 Los Angeles (LA) County residents prescribed psychotropic medications.**

### **Comments:**

The LA County residents receiving psychotropic medications had current court authorizations on file. Each resident was routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist for an evaluation of medication.

Medication logs were properly maintained.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VI. PERSONAL RIGHTS****Method of assessment – Resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

**Comments:**

The residents were presented with the policies, rules and regulations upon arrival in placement. The facility had an appropriate rewards and discipline system in place which the residents felt was fair. The residents reported that they were provided with adequate supervision at all times, staff treated them with respect and dignity, and that they felt safe. The residents also felt that staff was respectful of their individuality, ethnic, and cultural lifestyles.

For the older residents, chores included the maintenance of the cottage by cleaning the bathroom, vacuuming the cottage, and taking out the trash, which they did not feel was too demanding. They were free from interference with daily living functions and expressed satisfaction with the food. The children appeared content and well cared for and reported an overall satisfaction with the facility.

The residents were allowed to call their authorized representatives and had privacy during phone calls and visits. Hollygrove provided “special friends” to write letters and visit those residents who had no outside connections.

The residents had religious freedom, felt that their health care needs were met, and were aware of their right to refuse medication.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**

**VII. CLOTHING AND ALLOWANCES****Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and resident interviews**

**Sample size for resident interviews: Five**

**Comments:**

Hollygrove provided appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and allowances to the residents. Hollygrove supplied its residents with the required monthly clothing allowance in the amount of fifty dollars, and the residents were given the opportunity to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to the residents was of good quality and sufficient quantity.

The residents received at least the required minimum weekly allowance. Hollygrove maintained an accurate record of allowances disbursed, including the residents' signatures. The residents were encouraged to display appropriate values, including respect, fairness, and honesty for which they were rewarded with such things as a trip to the local store for preferred treats, extended playtime, or a choice of play activities.

Hollygrove provided residents with adequate personal care items and sufficient, secure storage space.

The residents had life books.

**Recommendations**

**There are no recommendations for this section.**